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ABSTRACT

This longitudinal study examined consistency and change in human personality. Rather than studying the consistency of individual differences over time, an approach which considers only the stability of a variable at the group level and ignores differences in stability at an individual level, this study used a person-centered approach to study consistency over time of an individual's personality profile. Subjects were 100 individuals who participated in an experimental study in 1975, at 1 year of age. Personality descriptions were obtained at age 7, 10, 12 and 20 years. Measures included the California Child Q Set (California Q Set for age 20), the Symptom Checklist, the National Youth Survey, and a peer acceptance measure using sociometric procedures or a social network interview (age 20). Findings indicated that consistency of personality is related to ego resiliency and to supportive relationships with peers. Resiliency and peer acceptance predicted later consistency of personality, and personality consistency predicted later resiliency and perceived peer support. Personality consistency as perceived by peers predicts later externalizing problems, especially violent behavior and excessive use of alcohol. Self-reported personality consistency predicted later internalizing problems, especially in the areas of sensitivity and distrust in personal relations and in feelings of hostility towards others. From a transactional perspective, results suggested that personality consistency from childhood to young adulthood is accompanied by social competence and by adequate social relationships. (Contains 19 references.) (KDFB)

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# THE TEMPORAL CONSISTENCY OF PERSONALITY PROFILES FROM CHILDHOOD THROUGH ADOLESCENCE INTO YOUNG ADULTHOOD[1]

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## Abstract

Consistency and change in an individual's personality can be studied in various ways. The most common approach is studying the consistency of individual differences within a sample of individuals over time, typically with a correlation coefficient. This approach, however, refers to the stability of a variable at the group level, and ignores differences in stability at an individual level. A more person-centered approach may study the consistency over time of a personality profile within a person. That way, consistency and change are regarded as attributes of a person, not of a group. One of the methods widely suggested for a person-centered approach to the study of the consistency of personality is using so-called Q-correlations of personality profiles at different time points.

In a longitudinal study with children from age 1 to 20, personality descriptions were gathered at age 7, 10, 12, and 20. Q-correlations were used to indicate the consistency of the personality profile over time. The consistency of personality was found to be related to ego-resiliency and to supportive relationships with peers. Relations were found in both directions, i.e., resiliency and peer acceptance predicting later consistency of personality as well as consistency of personality predicting later resiliency and perceived peer support. In addition, the consistency of personality affects psychological functioning, both in terms of internalising issues. Regarded from a transactional perspective, these results suggest that consistency of personality from childhood through adolescence into young adulthood is accompanied by social competence and by adequate social relationships.

## Introduction

Numerous studies have investigated the longitudinal stability of the rank-order of individuals in a particular personality trait (cf. reviews of Conley, 1984, and McCrae & Costa, 1990, for adulthood, and Moss & Susman, 1980, for childhood). Because these studies evaluate the temporal stability of the interindividual differtences in one variable, they have been called "variable-centered approaches to personality" (Block, 1971; Magnusson, 1988).

Another approach to the consistency of personality is to investigate the temporal consistency of the rank order of various traits in terms of their saliency for a particular person (cf. Block, 1971; Ozer & Gjerde, 1989, Asendorpf & van Aken, 1991). This "person-centered approach" evaluates the temporal consistency of intraindividual differences in one person. If we follow Allport's (1937) definition of personality as the "individual organisation of behavior", this type of consistency reflects the consistency of personality more directly than the variable-centered notion of trait stability. Note that in this case personality consistency does not imply personality 'sameness': there is developmental maturation.

One of the methods widely suggested for a person-centered approach to the study of personality is the Q-methodology. Originally described by Stephenson (1953), this methodology has gained attention in personality research through the work of Jack Block, who developed the California Q-set, a Q-sort method of personality description (Block, 1961), and who demonstrated the use of Q-methodology in a longitudinal study (Block, 1971). Recently, the advantages of the use of the Q-sort method in the study of personality have been summarized by Ozer (1994). In a Q-sort method, items have to be sorted into ordered categories, according to a specified criterion, for example how salient an item is for the description of a person. Items have to be sorted in a forced distribution, that is, a specified number of items must be placed in each category. This procedure yields a person-centered personality description, because the rater has to compare one attribute with others within the same individual: a high rating for an attribute indicates that this

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attribute is very salient for a person, compared to other attributes in the set of items.

The Q-sort method has been applied very successfully to assess the consistency of personality over time (also refered to as ipsative stability, Caspi & Bem, 1990). To compute the consistency of personality in this approach, Q-correlations between two Q-sort profiles of the same person on different measurement occasions are performed. In a Q-correlation, the set of attributes of a person at time 1 is correlated with the set of attributes of that person at time 2. The higher the correlation, the more the configuration of the attributes has remained stable over time.

Ozer and Gjerde (1989) and Asendorpf and van Aken (1991; van Aken & Asendorpf, in press) examined the consistency of personality between various ages on the basis of Q-sort descriptions on the California Child Q-set, a set of 100 items describing a wide range of social and personality attributes. They found that interindividual variation in the consistency of personality was related to the (social) competence of the subjects. These relations were found both predictive, i.e., competence predicting consistency of personality, as well as retrodictive, i.e., consistency of personality predicting competence.

The first part of these transactional findings (the competence -> consistency effects) can be explained from a traditional socialization perspective. Children and adolescents grow up in a world of continual societal pressure toward a socially desirable personality, with 'competence' as the most characteristic feature of this kind of personality. Through a process of social shaping, competent personality patterns will be stabilised, and incompetent patterns will be under pressure to change. This socialisation perspective, emphasising personality as a result of its environment, predicts that competent personality patterns will be more consistent than incompetent ones. If one has evolved a personality system that is already dynamically and resourcefully adaptive, one is not pushed or pulled towards fundamental personality change.

The other part of these transactional findings (the consistency -> competence effects) can be explained by the fact that consistency of personality as judged by persons in the environment of an adolescent is reflected in a consistent approach from that environment. These consistent approaches over time make it easier to deal with environmental demands, and, thus, promote competence. Similar 'competence-promoting' mechanisms were demonstrated for consistency between personality descriptions given by various others (van Aken & van Lieshout, 1991), and between descriptions provided by others and by adolescents themselves (van Aken, van Lieshout, & Haselager, in press).

Note that this does not mean that personality consistency is a characteristic of the environment: it should be seen as an aspect of personality, but one that is, at least to some extent, caused by environmental reactions.

In the present paper, again we assume transactional relations between competence and the consistency of personality. We will test these relations in an extension of one of the longitudinal data sets from our earlier studies, that now spans a period of age 7 to age 20. We will look at the items in a personality description that either predict or retrodict the consistency of personality over this age span. As a conceptualisation of competence, we will use the construct of 'ego-resiliency'. Ego-resiliency, defined as the "resourceful adaptation to changing circumstances and environmental contingencies, analysis of the 'goodness-of-fit' between situational demands and behavioral possibility, and flexible invocation of the available repertoire of problems-solving strategies" (Block & Block, 1980, p.48), can be regarded as a general disposition, largely similar to the notion of competence (Riksen-Walraven & van Aken, in press; van Aken, 1992).

In addition to this 'personality-based' index of competence, we will also use a more distal measure, namely the quality of relationships with peers. If our ideas are correct that the relation between a person's competence on the one hand and the consistency of his/her personality on the other has to do with the larger domain of the person-environment interaction, than the relations between consistency and competence should also be reflected in relations between consistency and characteristics of the (social) environment. Again, our predictions are that transactional mechanisms will be found, in which the quality of relationships predicts the consistency of personality, and vice versa.

We will also test the generalisation of the consistency -> competence effects into more applied aspects of competence by studying the consequences of consistency of personality from age 12 to age 20 (both in the eyes of the persons themselves as in the eyes of a peer) for internalising and externalising problems in psychological functioning.

## Method

### Subjects

Subjects were 100 individuals who participated in an experimental study in 1975, at age the age of 1 year old (Riksen-Walraven, 1978). Subjects were seen again with irregular intervals, at age 7 (N=98), at age 10 (N=93), at age 12 (N=89), and at age 20 (N=83). For the present paper, the results from the data collection in infancy will not be used.

### Instruments

#### Personality descriptions

Descriptions of the personality of the subjects were given at ages 7, 10, and 12, with the California Child Q-set (CCQ), a set of 100 items regarding a child's behavior and personality. These 100 items have to be sorted in a forced distribution into nine categories, ranging from most characteristic for the child to least characteristic for the child. CCQ-descriptions were available from teachers (at age 7, 10, and 12), and from peers and the child itself (at age 12).

At age 20, a description of the personality of the subject was given by the subject itself, and by a friend who accompanied him to the Institute (subjects were asked to bring with them a same-sex friend). Descriptions were given with the California Q-set (CQ), the adult version of the CCQ.

Temporal consistency of personality profiles. For each subject, the Q-sort profiles at different time points were correlated. The resulting Q-correlation-coefficients were used as indices for the temporal consistency of the child's personality. Using the CCQ, indices were thus available for the teacher-profile between age 7 and age 10 and between age 10 and age 12, and between age 7 and 12.

In the CCQ and the CQ, 60 items are overlapping. The profiles (rank orders) on these 60 items at age 12 and at age 20 were correlated. Using this procedure, indices for the consistency of personality were thus available for the self-profile between age 12 and age 20, and for the peer-profile between those ages.

Ego-resiliency scores. Scores for ego-resiliency were computed by correlating the Q-sort descriptions with the Q-sort prototypes for an ego-resilient child (for the CCQ) or adult (for the CQ). The resulting correlation coefficients were used as indices for the ego-resiliency of the child.

#### Quality of peer relations

Peer acceptance (age 10 and 12). Sociometric procedures were used to measure children's acceptance by their peers at age 10 and 12 (at age 7, no measures for peer acceptance were gathered).. A sociometric interview was conducted in the school classes of the children. All children in a class were asked to nominate the three children that they liked most, and the three children they liked least. In the present paper the number of liked most nominations will be used as an index for the peer acceptance of the child.

Perceived peer support (age 20). A social network interview was conducted at age 20, in which the subject were asked to answer 27 items of a social support questionnaire for all members of their social network. In the present paper, the scores of the 18 items concerning a general support dimension were averaged to get a score on perceived support. Only the perceived support score for friends is used in the present paper (an average of the score for all friends mentioned).

#### Psychological functioning

Internalizing problems. To measure internalizing psychological functioning, a Dutch version of the Symptom Checklist (SCL, ref.) was used. The SCL is a 90-item self-report scale with subscales for Agoraphobia, Fears, Depression, Somatic complaints, Insufficiency of thoughts, Interpersonal sensitivity, Hostility, Sleeping problems, and a SCL-Total score.

Externalizing problems. To measure externalizing psychological functioning, a questionnaire for criminality was used. This questionnaire is a Dutch version of the National Youth Survey (NYS) a scale used for comparison of various western countries (Junger-Tas, 1994), and contains scales for Small crimes, Vandalism, Theft, Violence, Use of Soft-drugs, Use of Hard-drugs, Use of Alcohol, and Selling drugs.

## Results

The temporal consistency of the personality profile over time was computed by pairwise correlating the various Q-sort descriptions. The mean correlations and their ranges

are presented in Table 1. This table shows substantial positive mean Q-correlations between the Q-sort descriptions over time, indicating fairly high temporal consistency of the personality profile. On the other hand, also a substantial variation in Q-correlations was found, indicating large individual differences in the degree to which the personality profiles remain consistent over time, ranging from no consistency at all (or even a slight negative consistency), to a substantially high consistency. Note that the consistency of personality between age 12 and 20 was lower than between 7, 10, and 12. One of the reasons may be the long time lag between those measurement points, another may be the somewhat lower reliability of the self- and peer-descriptions at age 12. The figures for the consistency of personality between age 12 and 20 might therefore be conservative estimates of the true consistency.

As pointed out before, we expect that the interindividual variation in consistency scores can be regarded as representing meaningful individual differences. To study the correlates of these individual differences in the consistency of personality at various time points, we correlated the indices for consistency with the 100 CCQ- or CQ-items either at the beginning of the time period the consistency score was referring to, or at the end of that time period. Tables 2a to 2f show the highest correlating items either predicting or retrodicting the temporal consistency of personality profile in the eyes of different judges (items are grouped according the results of ad-hoc factor analyses on the correlating items). In these tables, it can be seen that the temporal consistency of personality is related to adequate personal functioning at all ages. In general, the items predicting or retrodicting the consistency of personality refer to a resilient and, particularly, socially competent person, with some age- or rater-specific features (such as the planfulness and creativity in the teacher-rating at age 7 (table 2a), and the emotional stability in the self-rating at age 20 (table 2e)).

As described, we expected that these results could be summarized in the fact that the temporal consistency of personality is related to a child's ego-resiliency, both prospectively and retrospectively. Therefore, we computed the correlations between the indices for the consistency of personality and the ego-resiliency scores. Table 3 presents these correlations. It can be seen that indeed ego-resiliency is always both an antecedent of subsequent consistency of personality as well as a consequence of it, regardless of who is the judge of the consistency of personality. Results with adjacent time points are stronger than with more distant time points.

To further investigate the role of ego-resiliency as antecedent and/or consequence, that is, to investigate the question of the causal relations between personality attributes and consistency of personality, we formulated a path model which contains the relations between ego-resiliency and consistency of personality over the period from age 7 to age 20. The results of the analysis of this model are presented in Figure 1[2]. It can be seen that, with a slight exception (the .15 between ego-resiliency 10 and consistency 10-12), a fully transactional model is supported. At all ages ego-resiliency at time point *t* has an effect of the consistency of personality between *t* and *t+1*, and the consistency of personality between *t* and *t+1* has an effect on ego-resiliency at *t+1*. The transactional mechanisms become even more clear if we realise that (1) relations continue to come back over time, even after an initial covariation between ego-resiliency and consistency of personality has been corrected for, and (2) the long-term stabilities for ego-resiliency and for consistency of personality are not significant, but the transactional relations are. The latter point means, e.g., that the stability of ego-resiliency from age 12 to age 20 is mediated by the consistency of personality between age 12 and 20, and vice versa.

To test our hypotheses that the consistency of personality is related to the quality of the social relationships of the person, i.e. the relationships with peers, we analyzed the extent to which the consistency of personality during adolescence, between age 7 and 10, 10 and 12, and 12 and 20, was predicted by and predictive of the quality of the adolescents' peer relations at age 12 and 20. Table 4, upper panel, presents the correlations between the consistency of personality on the one hand and peer acceptance at age 12 and perceived

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[2]Note that for this path analysis, the measures are aggregated across judges (so ego-resiliency at age 12 is an aggregate of teacher-, self- and peer-judgment; consistency between 12 and 20 an aggregate of self- and peer-judgment. However, for less aggregated measures the model is basically the same.

peer support at age 20 on the other.

It can be seen that a similar pattern as for ego-resiliency is found. Peer acceptance at age 12 predicts the amount of consistency of personality from age 12 to age 20. Consistency of personality from age 12 to 20, in its turn, predicts the amount of support the subject reports to receive from friends at age 20. Note that these relations concern only the consistency in the eyes of the peers, not in the eyes of the subject itself.

Again, to further investigate the role of peer acceptance and support as antecedent and/or consequence, we formulated a path model which contains the relations between peer acceptance and support on the one hand and the consistency of personality on the other over the period from age 10 to age 20[3]. The results of the analysis of this model are presented in Figure 2. Again, it can be seen that a fully transactional model is supported. At all ages peer relations at time point *t* have an effect of the consistency of personality between *t* and *t+1*, and the consistency of personality between *t* and *t+1* has an effect on peer relations at *t+1*. Again, the transactional mechanisms become even more clear if we realise that (1) relations continue to come back over time, even after an initial covariation between peer relations and consistency of personality has been corrected for, and (2) the long-term stabilities for peer relations and for consistency of personality are not significant, but the transactional relations are. The stability of peer relations from age 12 to age 20 is mediated by the consistency of personality between age 12 and 20, and vice versa.

To test our assumption that consistency of personality (as 'structure' of personality) and competence (as 'level' of personality) are two separate (although related) aspects of personality, we conducted regression analyses in which the two were treated as independent consequences or antecedents of the quality of peer relations. Figure 3 gives the results of the analyses.

It can be seen that indeed the quality of peer relations predicts both the consistency of personality as well as the level of ego-resiliency. It can also be seen that both the consistency of personality and the level of ego-resiliency have independent contributions to the quality of peer relations.

Table 6 presents the correlations between the consistency of personality between age 12 and age 20 and indices of psychological functioning at age 20. As can be seen, consistency as reported by peers predicts later externalizing problems, especially violent behavior and excessive use of alcohol. Consistency of personality as reported by the subject itself, however, predicts later internalizing problems, especially in the realm of sensitivity and distrust in personal relations, and feelings of hostility towards others.

## Conclusion

In this paper, we have seen that the transactional mechanisms between children's competence and the temporal consistency of their personality profile, that we found in childhood in our earlier studies (e.g. Asendorpf & van Aken, 1991), were again found between early and late adolescence. We have also seen that these transactional mechanisms are not only confirmed for personality variables, but are also found in the case of social relationships, and that consitency of personality and level of ego-resiliency are independent predictors of the quality of peer relations. In addition, we have seen that the temporal consistency of the personality profile during adolescence affects psychological functioning, both in terms of internalising issues, such as feelings of hostility and distrust, and in terms of externalising issues, such as violent behavior and alcohol use.

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[3]To ensure independence of the measurements, the consistency of personality between age 12 and 20 in this model refers to consistency judged by peers. However, the model with the aggregated variables is basically the same.

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Table 1
Distributions of consistency of personality-scores

| Consistency of personality | N | Minimum | Mean | Maximum | SD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Age 7 - 10 | | | | | |
| teacher report | 90 | -.34 | .40 | .78 | .22 |
| Age 10 - 12 | | | | | |
| teacher report | 80 | -.09 | .46 | .87 | .20 |
| Age 7 - 10 | | | | | |
| teacher report | 79 | -.09 | .40 | .78 | .22 |
| Age 12 - 20 | | | | | |
| self report | 67 | -.03 | .30 | .62 | .15 |
| peer report | 51 | -.10 | .28 | .60 | .16 |

Table 2a.
Q-sort items (CCQ, teacher-description) at age 7, predicting consistency of personality between age 7 and 12, teacher report. Highest 15 of 38 significant correlations.

| Item | Label |
|---|---|
| 04 | Gets along well with other children |
| 30 | Tends to arouse liking in adults |
| 79 (-) | Is suspicious and distrustful of others |
| 09 | Develops genuine and close relationships |
| 78 (-) | Is easily offended |
| 90 (-) | Is stubborn |
| 56 (-) | Is jealous and envious of others |
| 02 | Is considerate of other children |
| 43 | Can recoup after stressful experiences |
| 64 | Is calm and relaxed |
| 76 | Can be trusted, is dependable |
| 67 | Is planful, thinks ahead |
| 96 | Is creative |
| 88 | Is self-reliant, confident |
| 12 (-) | Reverts to immature behavior under stress |

Table 2b
Q-sort items (CCQ, teacher-description) at age 12, consequence of consistency of personality between 7 and 12, teacher report. Highest 15 of 62 significant correlations

| Item | Label |
|---|---|
| 03 | Is warm and responsive |
| 06 | Is helpful and cooperative |
| 31 | Is empathic |
| 09 | Develops genuine and close relationships |
| 10 (-) | Has transient relationships |
| 79 (-) | Is suspicous and distrustful of others |
| 29 | Is protective of others |
| 04 | Gets along well with other children |
| 05 | Is admired by other children |
| 100 (-) | Is easily victimized by other children |
| 42 | Is an interesting, arresting child |
| 54 (-) | Has rapid shifts in mood |
| 95 (-) | Overreacts to minor frustrations |
| 91 (-) | Has inappropriate emotional reactions |
| 38 (-) | Has unusual thought processes |

Table 2c
Q-sort items (CCQ, self-description) at age 12, predicting consistency of personality between 12 and 20, self-report

| Item | Label |
|---|---|
| 76 | Is dependable |
| 85 (-) | Is aggressive |
| 80 (-) | Teases other children |
| 69 | Is verbally fluent |
| 09 | Develops genuine relationships |
| 12 (-) | Reverts to immature behavior under stress |
| 73 | Responds to humor |
| 36 | Is resourceful in initiating activities |
| 82 | Is self-assertive |
| 22 (-) | Manipulates others |
| 57 (-) | Tends to dramatize mishaps |
| 14 (-) | Is eager to please |
| 03 | Is warm and responsive |

Table 2d
Q-sort items (CCQ, peer-description) at age 12, predicting consistency of personality between 12 and 20, peer-report

| Item | Label |
|---|---|
| 29 | Is protective of others |
| 42 | Is an interesting and arresting child |
| 31 | Recognizes feelings of others |
| 98 (-) | Is shy and reserved |
| 10 (-) | Has transient relationships |
| 77 (-) | Appears to feel unworthy |
| 53 (-) | Tends to be indecisive |
| 88 | Is self-reliant |
| 30 | Tends to arouse liking in others |
| 94 (-) | Tends to be sulky or whiny |
| 33 (-) | Cries easily |
| 72 (-) | Has a readiness to feel guilty |
| 22 (-) | Manipulates others |
| 79 (-) | Is supicious and distrustful of others |
| 35 (-) | Is inhibited |
| 68 | High intellectual capacity |
| 44 (-) | Tends to give in |

Table 2e
Q-sort items (CCQ, self-description) at age 20, consequence of consistency of personality between 12 and 20, self-report

| Item | Label |
|---|---|
| 82 (-) | Has fluctuating moods |
| 49 (-) | Is basically distrustful |
| 33 | Is calm and relaxed |
| 75 | Has a clear-cut and consistent personality |
| 100 | Does not vary roles |
| 87 (-) | Interprets simple situations in complicated ways |
| 03 | Has a wide range of interests |
| 52 | Behaves in an assertive fashion |
| 45 (-) | Is disorganized under stress |
| 26 | Is productive, gets things done |
| 99 (-) | Is self-dramatizing |
| 36 (-) | Is subtly negativistic |
| 65 (-) | Pushes and tries to stretch limits |
| 77 | Appears straightforward |
| 34 (-) | Is over-reactive to minor frustrations |
| 67 (-) | Is self-indulgent |
| 56 | Responds to humor |
| 06 | Is fastidious |
| 02 | Is dependable and responsible |
| 42 (-) | Is reluctant to commit self |

Table 2f
Q-sort items (CCQ, peer-description) at age 20, consequence of consistency of personality between 12 and 20, peer-report

| Item | Label |
|---|---|
| 99 (-) | Is self-dramatizing |
| 23 (-) | Is extrapunitive, tends to transfer blame |
| 34 (-) | Is over-reactive to minor frustrations |
| 95 | Tends to proffer advice |
| 37 (-) | Is guileful and deceitful |
| 75 | Has a clear-cut, internally consistent personality |
| 26 (-) | Is productive, gets things done |
| 88 | Is personally charming |

Table 3
Correlations between consistency of personality and ego-resiliency

| | Consistency of personality | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Teacher | | Self | Peer |
| | 07-12 | 10-12 | 12-20 | 12-20 |
| Ego-resiliency | | | | |
| age 07 | .30** | .35** | .04 | .09 |
| age 10 | .49** | .38** | .21 | .31* |
| age 12 | .36** | .37** | .29* | .42** |
| age 20 | .08 | .03 | .38** | .28* |

*p<.05; **p<.01; ***p<.001

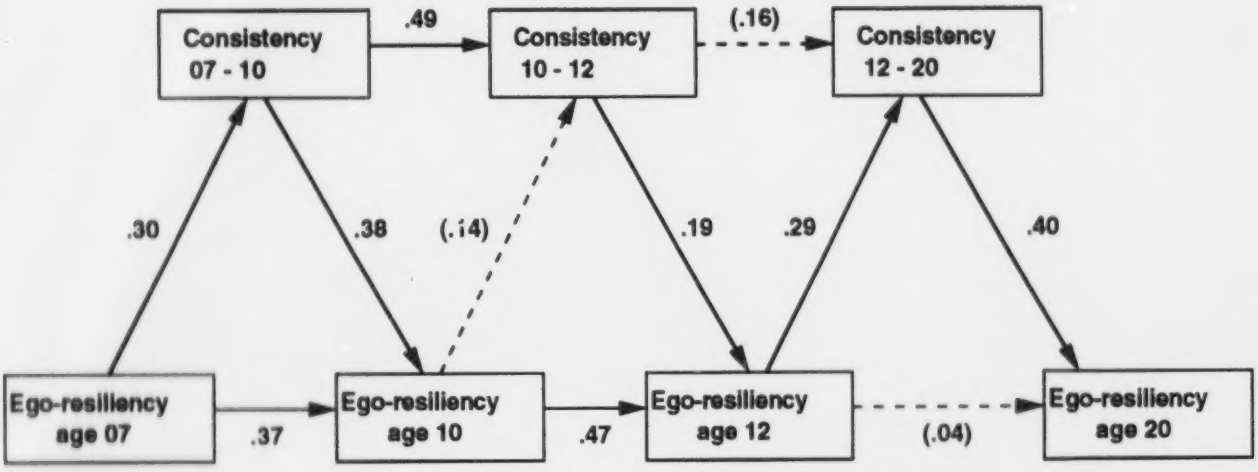
Note. Ego-resiliency scores are averaged within time across judges

Table 4
Correlations between consistency of personality and indices of peer relations and psychological functioning

| | Consistency of personality | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Teacher | | Self | Peer |
| | 07-12 | 10-12 | 12-20 | 12-20 |
| Peer acceptance | | | | |
| age 10 | .29** | .22 | .02 | .22 |
| age 12 | .25* | .31** | .13 | .36** |
| Perceived peer support | | | | |
| age 20 | -.14 | -.10 | .20 | .44** |
| SCL-90 (age 20) | | | | |
| Agoraphobia | .21 | .17 | -.03 | .15 |
| Fears | .14 | .12 | -.10 | .08 |
| Depression | .11 | .08 | -.15 | .07 |
| Somatic complaints | -.07 | -.02 | -.18 | -.06 |
| Insufficience | .13 | .08 | -.21 | .00 |
| Interpersonal sensitivity | -.07 | -.03 | -.42*** | -.02 |
| Hostility | -.08 | .05 | -.34** | -.23 |
| Sleeping problems | .14 | .01 | .07 | .11 |
| SCL-Total score | .07 | .07 | -.27* | .02 |
| Criminality (age 20) | | | | |
| Small crimes | -.06 | -.02 | -.14 | -.01 |
| Vandalism | -.06 | .03 | -.16 | -.17 |
| Theft | -.05 | -.05 | -.13 | -.11 |
| Violence | -.02 | -.14 | .03 | -.29* |
| Soft-drugs | -.15 | -.08 | -.22 | -.05 |
| Hard-drugs | -.20 | -.10 | -.17 | -.19 |
| Alcohol | -.08 | -.13 | -.19 | -.28* |
| Selling drugs | -.04 | -.11 | -.07 | -.18 |

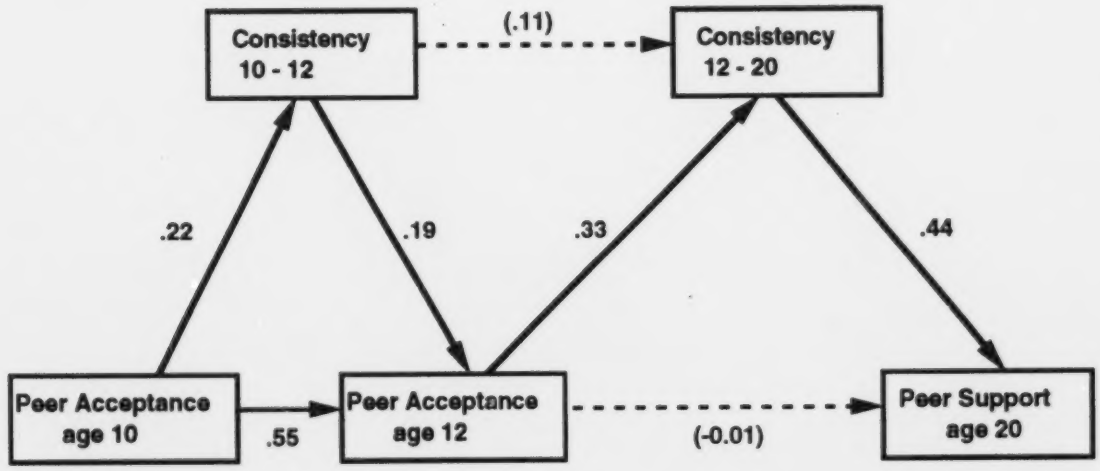
*p<.05; **p<.01; ***p<.001

**Figure 1. Path model for the longitudinal relations between ego-resiliency and personality consistency from age 7 to age 20 (dashed lines are not significant)**




ChiSq(10) = 24.78, p=.006
GFI = .92

**Figure 2. Path model for the longitudinal relations between peer acceptance and support and personality consistency from age 10 to age 20 (dashed lines are not significant)**




ChiSq(3) = 4.41, n.s.
GFI = .98

**Figure 3. Indepent relations between consistency (=structure) and ego-resiliency (=level) and the quality of peer relations.**